

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 04548 240116Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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R 221109Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2898

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 4548

FOR ARA/LUERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VE

SUBJECT: VISIT OF NAPOLEON CHAGNON, ANTHROPOLOGIST

REF: STATE 95473

1. THANKS FOR ALERTING ME TO CHAGNON'S VISIT. I WOULD BE GLAD TO TALK WITH HIM ABOUT HIS PLANS.

2. FYI. WE UNDERSTAND FROM MARCEL ROCHE THAT CHAGNON HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE COMISION INDIGENA ON MONDAY, APRIL 26. IT WAS THE COMISION INDIGENA WHICH PROMULGATED A RESULTATION IN SEPTEMBER, 1975 PROHIBITING FURTHER VISITS TO REGIONS INHABITED BY PRIMITIVE INDIANS AND VENEZUELAN BORDER AREAS. ACCORDING TO ROCHE, CHAGNON IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THE COMISION AND HAS THE SUPPORT OF MOST OF ITS MEMBERS, INCLUDING ITS HEAD, DR. EDDY ROMERO. ROCHE BELIEVES THAT CHAGNON WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN CONVINCING THE COMISION TO GRANT HIM AND HIS STUDENTS AN EXCEPTION TO THE BLANKET PROHIBITION NOW IN FORCE AND THAT THE COMISION WILL PRESENT A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE. ROCHE, WHO HAS CAREFULLY CANVASSED THE SITUATION, BELIEVES THAT IF THE EMBASSY WERE TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN THE MATTER BEFORE CHAGNON MEETS WITH THE COMISION, IT WOULD PREJUDICE CHAGNON'S CASE. HE THEREFORE STRONGLY ADVISES THAT THE EMBASSY STAY OUT OF THE MATTER UNLESS THE COMISION SHOULD RULE AGAINST CHAGNON.

SHLAUDEMAN

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